

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /022 W
----- 029974

R 150738Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0141

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME AND FITZSIMMONDS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA
SUBJ: CITRUS: FUNGICIDES

1. SITUATION AS OF MAY 10 ACCORDING TO MHW FOLLOWS:

GRAPEFRUIT: 1,877,564 CARTONS INSPECTED, 31,933 CARTONS REJECTED, FOR 2 PERCENT REJECT RATE.

LEMONS: 262,652 CARTONS INSPECTED, 122,092 CARTONS REJECTED, FOR 54 PERCENT REJECT RATE.

ORANGES: 54,051 CARTONS INSPECTED, 15,367 CARTONS REJECTED, FOR 28 PERCENT REJECT RATE.

TOTAL REJECTED ALL U.S. CITRUS: 216,076 CARTONS.

2. AS MENTIONED EARLIER RETAIL LEMON PRICE NOW AS HIGH AS 500 YEN (1.70 DOLLARS) PER FRUIT WHERE AVAILABLE. AIR SHIPMENT OF QUOTE CLEAN LEMONS UNQUOTE BECOMING POPULAR BUSINESS ACCORDING TO TRADE RUMORS.

3. ACCORDING TO TRADE, SUNKIST'S SK21 WAS TO BE QUOTE ENTIRELY CLEAN UNQUOTE BUT APPEARS THAT OF EIGHT LABELS (33,000 CARTONS) SIX TESTED NEGATIVE AND TWO (13,500 CARTONS) WERE REJECTED. REJECTED IN-BRAND NAMES WERE QUOTE RULER UNQUOTE AND QUOTE OXNARD UNQUOTE.

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4. ICCAP PLANNING SUBMIT TO MHW SCIENTIFIC DATA AND PETITION OF SORTS ON PROTECTIVE WAXES THROUGH SUNKIST PACIFIC OFFICE ALONG WITH DATA ON OPP AND TBZ. WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO SUNKIST PACIFIC THAT THEIR INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES IN THIS DIRECTION MAY BE OKAY AS WILL HELP KEEP MHW AWARE OF STRONG U.S. INTEREST. HOWEVER, AGATT STILL NOT PLANNING MAKE ANY MENTION OF WAXES TO MHW UNTIL OPP AND TBZ APPROVED. YOUR ADVICE ON THIS WILL BE APPRECIATED.

5. MR. TAKESHITA OF AGATT OFFICE BELIEVES SOME MHW FOOD SANITATION COUNCIL MEMBERS LIKELY TO INSIST ON DATA SHOWING THAT EVEN IF TBZ AND OPP OR DIPHENYL ARE APPLIED TOGETHER TO SAME FRUIT, HUMANS WILL RECEIVE NO HARMFUL EFFECTS. DR. SMOOT NOT AWARE OF ANY RESEARCH DONE IN THIS AREA. IF ANY AVAILABLE, PLEASE SEND. MHW HAS NOT YET RAISED QUESTION TO ANY AMERICAN OFFICER, BUT TO DELAY APPROVAL IT MAY COME UP IN FUTURE.

HODGSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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